



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 1/28/25 at 9:00 a.m.

Objective

Provide information to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) on salmonids and green sturgeon. Final versions of the Proposed Action Assessment, and Fish and Water Operations Outlook will be posted to Reclamation's [Delta Monitoring Work Group](#) webpage, while final version of the Meeting Notes will be posted to Reclamation's [Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage. Meeting participants include representatives from: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), DWR, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Participants

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Kearns & West (K&W)

Announcements

- WOMT is continuing to discuss the frequency for SaMT and it is encouraged for SaMT members to reach out to their representatives and communicate the process for meeting in which SaMT members have proposed.
- Kearns & West has been directed to hold the SaMT meetings until WOMT specifies that weekly meetings are not needed.

Relevant Actions & Triggers

- **Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3):** See Outlook and Assessment for more information.
- **SWP ITP/CVP PA Winter-run Chinook Salmon Annual Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3):** DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant consistent with COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3 of the SWP ITP/SWP and CVP PA. These values are based on the final juvenile production estimate (JPE).
 - The natural-origin Winter-run Chinook salmon Annual Loss Threshold for this year is based on the initial length-at-date (LAD) identification of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon and the thresholds described above. If genetic analysis of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP subsequently confirms that any given Chinook salmon is not genetically identified as a CHNWR that fish will not count towards the loss threshold. This threshold is loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 0.5% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE (loss threshold = $98,893 \times 0.5\% = 494.47$). If cumulative loss of natural-origin CHNWR in a brood year exceeds 50% of the annual loss threshold (loss > 247.24), then Permittee shall, in coordination with Reclamation, adjust south Delta exports to achieve a 7-day average of the OMR index no more negative than -3,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days. If a CHNWR is salvaged during the 7-day action, the action will be extended for another seven days. At the conclusion of the action, Permittee, in coordination with Reclamation shall revert to the weekly distributed loss threshold until the 75% threshold is reached or throughout the end of the OMR Management season. If the 75% loss threshold (loss > 370.85) is exceeded AND the Winter-Run Chinook salmon Machine Learning Model predicts that an OMR index of -2,500 cfs would shift the model output to a classification of CHNWR absence with a minimum probability of absence prediction of 0.559 for 1 of 30 sub-models for any of the 7 most recent prediction days, then a 7-day average OMRI index of -2,500 cfs will be operated to for 7 consecutive days. Thereafter, each winter-run observed in salvage will trigger a 7-day OMR index of -2,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days IF the Winter-Run Chinook salmon Machine Learning Model predicts that an OMR index of -2,500 cfs would shift the model output to a classification of CHNWR absence with a minimum probability of absence prediction of 0.559 for 1 of 30 sub-models for any of the 7 most recent prediction days. The JPE has not yet been calculated for WY 2025; therefore, threshold values are not yet available but natural-origin winter-run loss is still being tracked until these thresholds are determined.
 - The hatchery-origin Chinook salmon Annual Loss Threshold for this year is loss of both LSNFH and Battle Creek clipped CWT winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 0.12% of the winter-run Chinook salmon hatchery-origin JPE (loss ≥ 162.41 and loss > 3.44, respectively). If the 50% and 75% thresholds are exceeded, the same process will occur as what occurs for the natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon (as discussed in above bullet).

- The final JPE was distributed on 1/10/25 for WY 2025. Hatchery-origin winter-run Chinook salmon have not been released yet in WY 2025.
- **SWP ITP/SWP and CVP PA Winter-run Weekly Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.4/PA 3.7.4.5.4):**
 - DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant consistent with COA 8.4.4/PA 3.7.4.5.4 of the SWP ITP/CVP PA. These values are based on the product of the weekly percentage of natural-origin CHNWR present in the Delta, scaled to 100% (Table 4, Column E of the SWP ITP), and 50% of the natural-origin CHNWR annual loss threshold (COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3). The final JPE Memo was issued on 1/10/25. The weekly thresholds for the previous week and the upcoming few weeks are provided below:
 - 1/15/25 - 1/21/25: 3.21
 - 1/22/24 - 1/28/25: 3.21
 - 1/29/25 - 2/4/25: 17.08
 - 2/5/25 - 2/11/25: 32.46
 - If the 7-day rolling sum of loss exceeds the above thresholds in any given week, the required response is to reduce SWP and CVP exports to reach an average OMR index of no more negative than -3,500 cfs for seven consecutive days. DWR and Reclamation shall restrict exports in response to initial LAD identification of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon. If genetic analysis of an individual natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP indicates that it is not a winter-run, that individual shall not count toward the loss threshold and continued export restrictions under the PA or COA are not required if the weekly loss threshold has consequently not been met.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- SaMT reviewed and updated the Outlook document. The updated Outlook document will be shared with SaMT via SharePoint link by close of business (COB) 1/29/25. Additional details and operations context shared at the 1/28/25 meeting include:
 - There is a chance that the SWP could approach flood control operations with upcoming, anticipated precipitation in Northern California.
 - Sacramento River flows at Keswick are currently 5,000 cfs but will decrease to 4,000 cfs by 1/31/25.
 - Sacramento River flows at Freeport were 18,500 cfs as of 1/27/25 and are expected to decrease through the week.
 - San Joaquin River at Vernalis flows are currently 1,160 cfs and is expected to remain relatively stable.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) was exporting 3,000 cfs on 1/27/25 and may decrease down to approximately 2,500 cfs.

- Delta Outflow was 14,500 cfs on 1/27/25 and was recently on a downtrend, but may increase again with the upcoming precipitation, depending on how much water the Delta receives.
- QWEST was -1,400 cfs on 1/27/25 with a 7-day average at +100 cfs. It may decrease down to approximately -2,000 cfs but recover somewhat with anticipated precipitation.
- Rio Vista flows were about 16,000 cfs and expected to decrease to around 12,000 cfs.
- OMRI is -5,000 cfs as of 1/27/25.
- CVP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 608 TAF.
- Total storage of the San Luis Reservoir is approximately 1.52 MAF.

Part 2: Open Discussion on Species Status

- N/A

Part 3. Live Edit Assessments

SWP ITP / 2024 CVP PA Operations Summary and Chinook Salmon Assessment

- SaMT reviewed the draft 2024 SWP ITP / 2024 CVP PA Operations Summary and Chinook Salmon Assessment.
- The final version can be found in the Salmon and Smelt Monitoring Teams SharePoint.

Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Risk Assessment

- SaMT reviewed the draft Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Risk Assessment.
- The final version can be found on CDFW's [Water Project Operations webpage](#).
- Going forward, this assessment will not need to be reviewed in a SaMT meeting each week unless there is a request or need for discussion. SaMT members still need to review the document each week independently in order to understand why changes are being made week to week and raise items for discussion if needed.

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

Discussion on Frequency of SaMT Meetings

- CDFW reported that WOMT does not seem to be in alignment with the SaMT on the subject of meeting frequency. They noted that the SaMT will need to present a unified response to WOMT and recommended that SaMT members brief their WOMT representatives on the meeting preferences of the SaMT, acknowledging that not everyone may have a direct line of communication with their WOMT representative.
- CDFW asked if there will be an announcement during the Weekly Operations call if SaMT is required to meet and review the spring-run risk table.

- SaMT members agreed that keeping the existing calendar hold (from 9:30-11 a.m. each Tuesday) will help with carving out time for any necessary meetings that arise.
 - DWR suggested asking each week during the Operations call if SaMT wants to meet to discuss anything.
 - The updated recommendation is to, whenever possible, communicate any perceived issues on Mondays and discuss the need for SaMT to meet on Tuesdays. SaMT members should communicate this with each other as applicable and alert Mia Schiappi, Kearns & West, and Crystal Rigby, CDFW, if they think there may be a need to meet as a group after the Weekly Operations call.
 - CDFW asked if there is official representation or attendance needed to be considered an "official" SaMT meeting, or if the meeting can convene with whomever attends and is available.
 - Kearns & West is not aware of any specific attendee requirements or required quorum for convening a meeting. However, all present agencies will be documented in the notes.
 - The SaMT generally agreed that as long as there is a representative present from each agency, they will be able to hold a meeting.
 - Regarding potential scheduling conflicts, DWR recommended that SaMT members prioritize SaMT meetings over other obligations, especially off-cycle and ad-hoc meetings.

Items to Raise to WOMT

- SaMT members are to communicate their preference of meeting frequency to their WOMT representatives.

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next SaMT Meeting will be on Tuesday, 2/4/25.

Action Items

- Crystal Rigby, CDFW, to update Table 5 under the Hatchery Release Information in the Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Assessment.